

MINUTES OF BENTON COUNTY QUORUM COURT

May 24, 2007

A regular meeting of the Benton County Quorum Court was held on Thursday, May 24, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. at the Benton County Administration Building, 215 East Central Avenue, Bentonville, Arkansas, pursuant to proper call and notice.

In the absence of County Judge Gary Black, County Clerk Mary Lou Slinkard called the meeting to order.

JP Stephenson nominated JP Summers to act as presiding officer, seconded by JP Moore. JP Summers was duly elected presiding officer by unanimous voice vote.

County Clerk Mary Lou Slinkard called roll as follows:

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| 11 JP's Present: | Brown, Glass, Harrison, Hill, Hobbs, Hubbard, Moore, Schindler, Stephenson, Summers, Winscott |
| 2 Absent: | Wolf, Wozniak |

The presiding officer led the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Reverend Bill Rogers of Word of Life Fellowship led the prayer.

A moment of silence was held in support of the men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces.

MINUTES:

JP Hobbs made motion to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of April 26, 2007 as distributed, seconded by JP Stephenson. Motion to approve the minutes carried by unanimous voice vote.

COUNTY JUDGE'S REPORT:

Assistant County Administrator Travis Harp yielded to Juvenile Detention Center Director Dennis Cottrell, who gave an update on overcrowding at the JDC and stated that a JDC Subcommittee has been appointed. He noted that the Center has reached a critical stage of overcrowding and that other centers around the state are also full.

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT:

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

JP Moore stated that the Long Range Planning/Properties and Equipment Committee met on May 22, 2007 and discussed options for additional courtroom space and the overcrowding situation at the JDC.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jerry Sheridan stated that it would be greatly appreciated if the VAS ordinances could be read three times this evening since this is not a controversial issue and is being put to a vote of the people.

Connie Henry stated that she was from the Beaver Shores Property Owners Association, and was greatly disappointed that the Nuisance Abatement Ordinance has stalled, and urged its passage.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

County Clerk Mary Lou Slinkard stated that the Quorum Court is responsible for three of the nine appointments to the Equalization Board, and briefly explained the function of the Equalization Board. She stated that there are two Quorum Court-appointed positions open, and three people have applied for the position— Vivian Scott, Phil Fielding, and Rich Coleman. Each applicant stated briefly why they would like to serve on the Equalization Board and answered questions from the Quorum Court members.

- (A) Proposed Resolution Appointing a Quorum Court Representative to the Benton County Equalization Board For a Three-Year Term

County Clerk Mary Lou Slinkard read the proposed Resolution by title only. County Clerk Mary Lou Slinkard stated that the first position they will fill is a three-year term ending June 1, 2010.

A roll call vote was recorded as follows:

Phil Fielding: 5 votes – Brown, Glass, Hill, Hobbs, Hubbard
Vivian Scott: 4 votes – Harrison, Schindler, Stephenson, Winscott
Rich Coleman: 2 votes – Moore, Summers
2 Absent

County Clerk Mary Lou Slinkard read the proposed Resolution in full, inserting the name of Phil Fielding as the appointee. JP Stephenson made motion for approval, seconded by JP Hill. Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

Resolution duly adopted and assigned **No. R-2007-06.**

- (A) Proposed Resolution Appointing a Quorum Court Representative to the Benton County Equalization Board to Fill A Vacancy For a One-Year Un-expired Term

A roll call vote was recorded as follows:

Rich Coleman: 7 votes – Brown, Glass, Hill, Hobbs, Hubbard, Moore, Summers

Vivian Scott: 4 votes – Harrison, Schindler, Stephenson, Winscott
2 Absent

County Clerk Mary Lou Slinkard read the proposed Resolution in full, inserting the name of Rich Coleman as the appointee. JP Stephenson made motion for approval, seconded by JP Moore.

Resolution duly adopted and assigned **No. R-2007-07.**

- (B) Confirmation of Appointment of Heath Ward to the Benton County Planning Board

JP Summers stated that there were 19 applicants for this position and the County Judge selected Heath Ward. JP Stephenson made motion for approval, seconded by JP Winscott. Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

Appointment confirmed.

- (C) Proposed Referendum Ordinance Increasing the Service Fee of the Northeast Benton County Emergency Medical Service District (EMSD) as Provided by the Volunteer Ambulance Service (VAS); Sponsor: JP Christian Glass

County Clerk Mary Lou Slinkard read the proposed Referendum Ordinance by title only. JP Glass made motion to suspend the rules and place the proposed Referendum Ordinance on second reading, seconded by JP Hill.

There being no discussion, a roll call vote was recorded as follows:

11 yeas: Brown, Glass, Harrison, Hill, Hobbs, Hubbard, Moore, Schindler, Stephenson, Summers, Winscott

2 absent: Wolf, Wozniak

Motion passed.

County Clerk Mary Lou Slinkard read the proposed Referendum Ordinance by title only. JP Glass made motion to suspend the rules and place the proposed Referendum Ordinance on third and final reading, seconded by JP Harrison. JP Hill stated that he did not want to become so cavalier that this becomes standard practice.

There being no further discussion, a roll call vote was recorded as follows:

11 yeas: Brown, Glass, Harrison, Hill, Hobbs, Hubbard, Moore, Schindler,
Stephenson, Summers, Winscott
2 absent: Wolf, Wozniak

Motion passed.

County Clerk Mary Lou Slinkard read the proposed Referendum Ordinance by title only. JP Glass made motion for approval, seconded by JP Stephenson. JP Glass stated that the \$15.00 fee was set in 1985, and has not been increased since then. He said that the EMSD has taken donations and asked for voluntary contributions to keep up with operating costs, and the proposed increase will be voted on by the people within the district. Jeff Mason of VAS stated that in 2006 the EMSD's income was \$88,000 and expenditures totaled \$120,000. He added that they would eventually like to increase their level of service from Basic Life Support to a Paramedic service.

There being no further discussion, a roll call vote was recorded as follows:

11 yeas: Brown, Glass, Harrison, Hill, Hobbs, Hubbard, Moore, Schindler,
Stephenson, Summers, Winscott
2 absent: Wolf, Wozniak

Referendum Ordinance duly adopted and assigned No. **O-2007-07**.

(D) Proposed Resolution Referring the Question to Increase the Service Fee Per Household Within the Northeast Benton County Emergency Medical Service District (EMSD); Sponsor: JP Christian Glass

County Clerk Mary Lou Slinkard read the proposed Resolution in full. JP Glass made motion for approval, seconded by JP Harrison.

There being no further discussion, a roll call vote was recorded as follows:

11 yeas: Brown, Glass, Harrison, Hill, Hobbs, Hubbard, Moore, Schindler,
Stephenson, Summers, Winscott
2 absent: Wolf, Wozniak

Resolution duly adopted and assigned No. **R-2007-08**.

- (E) Proposed Ordinance Amending Certain Sections of Chapter 26, Article II et seq. of the *Code of Ordinances of Benton County, Arkansas* Regarding Northeast Benton County Emergency Medical Service District; Sponsor: JP Christian Glass

County Clerk Mary Lou Slinkard read the proposed Ordinance by title only. JP Glass made motion to suspend the rules and place on second reading, seconded by JP Stephenson.

There being no discussion, a roll call vote was recorded as follows:

11 yeas: Brown, Glass, Harrison, Hill, Hobbs, Hubbard, Moore, Schindler,
Stephenson, Summers, Winscott
2 absent: Wolf, Wozniak

Motion passed.

County Clerk Mary Lou Slinkard read the proposed Ordinance by title only. JP Glass made motion to suspend the rules and place on third and final reading, seconded by JP Hill.

There being no discussion, a roll call vote was recorded as follows:

11 yeas: Brown, Glass, Harrison, Hill, Hobbs, Hubbard, Moore, Schindler,
Stephenson, Summers, Winscott
2 absent: Wolf, Wozniak

Motion passed.

County Clerk Mary Lou Slinkard read the proposed Ordinance by title only. JP Glass made motion for approval, seconded by JP Stephenson.

There being no discussion, a roll call vote was recorded as follows:

11 yeas: Brown, Glass, Harrison, Hill, Hobbs, Hubbard, Moore, Schindler,
Stephenson, Summers, Winscott
2 absent: Wolf, Wozniak

Ordinance duly adopted and assigned No. **O-2007-08.**

OTHER BUSINESS:

JP Winscott asked for an update on the proposed Nuisance Abatement Ordinance. County Attorney Robin Green stated that she has completed her review and will send her comments to

the JPs. JP Glass noted that the ordinance has not stalled, but is slowly moving along through the process as it should.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

JP Summers announced that the Finance Committee will meet Tuesday, June 5, 2007 at 2:30 p.m., and the Committee of Thirteen will meet Tuesday, June 12, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. JP Summers welcomed back Deputy Kirk Plepla from an extended medical leave.

JP Stephenson announced that the Juvenile Detention Center Ad Hoc Committee will meet Thursday, June 28, 2007 at 3:00 p.m., and the Personnel Committee will meet Monday, June 11, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the court, upon motion and second the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary L. Slinkard,
County Clerk

Prepared by: Betsy Deaton